



Chickens for Meat + Eggs

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And Eggs

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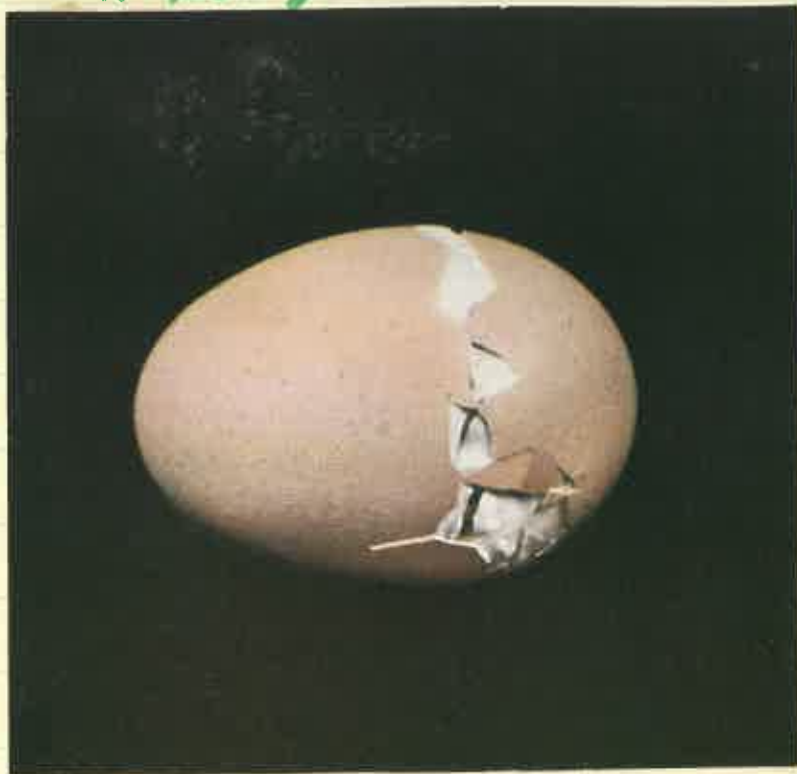
## Chickens, For Meat and Eggs

Which came first? The chicken or the egg? At my house the chicks came first. But let's think, where did the chicks come from? Eggs, of course, eggs which had been laid by pullorum tested hens. Pullorum disease is one which affects the blood of a chicken. If the hen has this disease, most of her chicks will die. It is one of the only diseases which can be transmitted from the hen to the chick while it is inside the egg. The eggs were hatched in an incubator. A heat of  $103^{\circ}$  was maintained inside the incubator. The eggs had to be turned every day until the last two days. It takes an egg three weeks from the time it is laid until it hatches.

My first flock of New Hampshire chicks came on November 5, 1952 as my first Agriculture project. There were ten in all and I paid nineteen cents for each. Three of the chickens died, probably because of my inexperience.



*A Chick Being Hatched*







I found quickly that there was not much hope for any profit if I bought feed in small amounts. Buying hundred pound sacks of feed instead of the twenty-five pound quantities has saved me some money. A twenty-five pound sack of broiler mash costs one dollar and eighty cents, a one hundred pound sack costs six dollars and thirty cents saving me ninety cents per hundred pounds.

The chicks were straight run. At nine weeks of age I killed the cockerels. They were far above average for weight, they weighed about four to four and one half pounds. Average is about three to three and one half pounds.

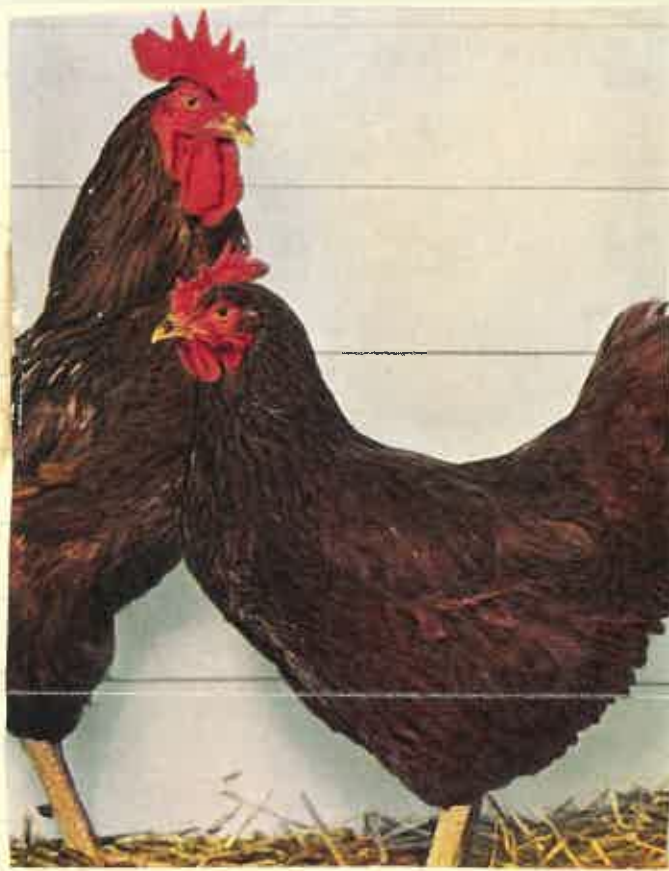
If a poultry farmer raised chickens on a much larger scale than I do, he would have to sell his produce wholesale. Having only a few I had plenty of time to sell retail. I figured my price was fair because I called up several stores and averaged their prices,



which came out fifty-five cents per pound for dressed birds. I paid for six dollars and twelve cents worth of feed and supplies for the cockerals. I received eight dollars and eighty-one cents with an average of forty five cents profit each.

I started out with six cockerals and four pullets. I have three pullets left. Raising them until they started producing on April first cost me eight dollars and fifty four cents, for an average of two dollars and eighty one cents each. Chickens that are any good at all will produce at least sixty percent of the time. Bringing sixty cents a dozen my hens will produce twenty eight dollars and eighty cents worth of eggs a year. Eating thirty five pounds of feed a month as they have in the past they would cost twenty four dollars a year. The profit would be four dollars and eighty cents a year. That's not much but I think my hens will produce more than sixty percent of the time any way.

I am not saying that I am going to get rich. But you can see that a person raising several thousand birds could make a living by raising chickens by proper methods.



Rhode Island Reds

Rhode Island Reds are good layers. They have egg records up to three hundred and five a year. They also make excellent meat birds for frying or roasting.

New  
Hampshires



New Hampshires are the most popular breed of chickens on the west coast. There are more of this type chicken because of its adaptability to our climate and its being good layers and good for meat. This is the kind which I raise.





White  
Leghorns

White Leghorns are the main egg producing breed of chicken in America today. They are especially good because they are so small. Full grown hens don't weigh over five and one half pounds at the most. Small birds eat less but Leghorns produce even more than the other types of chicken which are heavier.